

Milwaukee Acad. of Med.

THE  
PROGRESS OF THE MILWAUKEE TEST.\*

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE TEST  
TO THE MILWAUKEE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN: Your Standing Committee on the Milwaukee Test beg to submit the following report on the present condition of that measure, which has now for over six months past engrossed the attention of a large part of the medical profession. The object of the proposition is well known to you, as are also its terms. Both of these have, however, been misrepresented by our opponents, which will be our excuse for recapitulating the main features of the measure.

Two tests are proposed, both of the 30th Hahnemannian attenuation of any remedy in common use which may be applied for. The first is pathogenetic; the second therapeutic; and it was believed that both these tests would cover all objections which might be made. The only qualifications asked for in an experimenter are, that he shall be a believer in the efficacy of the 30th dilution, and familiar with the symptomatology of the remedy he applies for. No conditions are imposed upon him in respect of the manner, or method, or subject he may employ for his experimentation. He may test the remedy on himself or his mother-in-law, on the healthy or the sick, the young or the old, the obtuse or the sensitive to drug-action; and, if he has any practice at all, he will know of some individual who is sensitive to some particular drug. The task is for him to designate which vial contains the medicated pellets.

Naturally the question provoked considerable discussion, and

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of those who have shown any interest in the matter we find them ranged on two sides, for and against the proposition. We will quote a few of its many friends:

PROFESSOR T. F. ALLEN, of New York, said, at the American Institute meeting: "It is a step in the right direction."

PROFESSOR CHARLES B. GATCHELL, of Ann Arbor, says, in the March *Observer*: "I regard the proposition as a very fair one. You may add my name to the list," etc.

PROFESSOR J. S. MITCHELL, of Chicago, writes: "I think well of your plan. We should test our remedies fully in every way."

PROFESSOR J. P. DAKE, of Nashville, writes: "Your proposition is fair and the method decidedly scientific."

PROFESSOR ASA S. COUCH, of Fredonia, says: "I am glad that your Academy has moved in the matter of testing the high potencies. Shall hope for good results."

DR. RICHARD HUGHES, of England, writes: "I propose to bring it before the British Homeopathic Society."

DR. H. M. PAYNE, of Albany, writes: "A thorough and impartial test. I rejoice in your effort, and I believe you will succeed."

PROFESSOR PEMBERTON DUDLEY, of Philadelphia, says: "The Milwaukee Test furnishes an occasion which ought to be made the most of."

PROFESSOR P. G. VALENTINE, of St. Louis, says: "This seems to us a fair proposition."

DR. H. R. ARNDT, of Grand Rapids, writes: "Command my assistance and services whenever you please."

DR. O. W. SMITH, of New York, writes: "Will aid you in any way that I can in carrying out your plan with determination and completeness."

DR. W. H. WINSLOW, of Pittsburgh, writes: "I am in sympathy with you in the test."

DR. W. F. MORGAN, of Leavenworth, writes: "Your article seems to be candid. I am willing to co-operate."

DR. H. A. FOSTER, of Buffalo, writes: "It is fair, reasonable, and rational."

PROFESSOR A. W. WOODWARD, of Chicago, says: "I will find the medicated vial, I warrant."

DR. G. R. MITCHELL, of Richland Centre, says: "I am heartily glad that the Milwaukee Academy has undertaken the work of testing the efficacy of the 30th."

DR. E. C. MORRILL, of Norwalk, Ohio, says: "I can pick out the medicated vial of Nux every time, and will wager \$100 on it."

The New York State Society at its meeting in February, approved the test by a formal resolution, and appointed a committee of three to co-operate with this Society in carrying it out. Two of the committee, high-potency men, refused to obey the instructions of their Society, and have prevented the issuing of any announcement by the committee, in accordance with the wishes of the State Society. The third member, Dr. Paine, is warmly in favor of the test.

The following physicians, believers in the efficacy of the 30th attenuation, have applied for and received the test-pellets.

PROFESSOR C. B. GATCHELL, Ann Arbor, Mich.	DR. N. A. PENNOYER, Kenosha, Wis.
PROFESSOR A. UHLEMAYER, St. Louis, Mo.	DR. C. R. MUZZEY, Watertown, Wis.
PROFESSOR W. J. HAWKES, Chicago, Ill.	DR. E. C. MORRILL, Norwalk, Ohio.
DR. WILLIAM EGGERT, Indianapolis, Ind.	DR. O. S. CHILDS, Beaver Dam, Wis.
DR. H. L. WALDO, Troy, N. Y.	DR. WILLIAM B. TRITES, Manayunk, Pa.
DR. W. F. MORGAN, Leavenworth, Kan.	DR. M. A. RIES, Milwaukee, Wis.
DR. J. W. THOMPSON, Greenfield, Mass.	DR. G. R. MITCHELL, Richland Centre, Wis.
DR. JOHN H. THOMPSON, New York.	DR. P. NELSON, Minneapolis, Minn.
DR. W. H. BLAKELEY, Bowling Green, Ky.	DR. WILLIAM COLLISSON, St. Louis, Mo.
DR. W. S. GILLETT, Fox Lake, Wis.	DR. E. A. L. CAMPBELL, Attleboro, Mass.
DR. C. H. HALL, Madison, Wis.	DR. T. L. BROWN, Binghamton, N. Y.
DR. A. W. WOODWARD, Chicago, Ill.	DR. C. MOHR, Philadelphia, Pa.
DR. O. W. SMITH, Union Springs, N. Y.	DR. W. A. PEARSALL, Saratoga, N. Y.
	DR. W. M. BUTLER, Middletown, N. Y.

The opponents of the test are well represented by the following extracts from the letters and articles of the most prominent among the men who are daily furnishing the oft-quoted "great mass of evidence" for the medicinal efficacy of the high potencies. They are, strange to say, almost unanimous in condemnation of what would seem to be an excellent opportunity for them to prove beyond cavil the claims which they so vehemently urge.

DR. A.D. LIPPE, of Philadelphia, calls it "an absurd question" and "a ridiculous test."

DR. C. LIPPE, of New York, says, it "cannot be a scientific test. I feel its absurdity."

PROFESSOR T. S. HOYNE, of Chicago, writes: "No use or necessity of proving what has been proved thousands of times."

PROFESSOR T. P. WILSON, of Cincinnati, calls it "a madcap scheme," and says that it is "not only uncalled for, but bordering upon the ludicrous."

DR. T. F. POMEROY, of Detroit, lets the cat out of the bag, thus: "The advocates of the potential efficacy of the 30th dilutions cannot be caught in any such trap as it thus spreads for their feet; nor can they be beguiled or misled by any such artful dodge as is proposed through the instrumentality of the Milwaukee Academy of Medicine."

DR. C. E. BLUMENTHAL, of New York, says: "I do not consider the proposed so-called test of any value."

DR. L. E. OBER, of Wisconsin, says: "The proposed plan is just as fallacious as the error you wish to correct."

DR. S. LILIENTHAL, of New York, says: "The test is not fair, because it is not complete; because it differentiates not strict enough."

DR. JOHN C. MORGAN, of Philadelphia, says: "The whole movement [is] a partisan aggression, an effort to brand the whole record of homeopathic practice."

DR. C. H. VON TAGEN, of Chicago, says: "A local medical association is not the proper source for such a movement."

DR. C. PEARSON, of Washington, thinks that the movement is an effort to prove him "either a fool or a rascal, and a death-thrust at homeopathy; one that his vilest enemies have hitherto failed to equal."

DR. SCHULZ, of California, seeing only the pathogenetic test, believes it will fail, and therefore will do homeopathy no good.

DR. GEORGE H. CARR, of Michigan, writes: "The potency is altogether too low. In my every-day practice I use the 100,000th potency, and higher, as high as the 50<sup>mm</sup> of some drugs. I am too well pleased with their action; too much so to ever 'putter round' with 30ths. When you are ready for a complete test, with *genuine* high potencies, I will be only too happy to accommodate you."

DR. R. B. McCLEARY, of Illinois, writes: "I have been using the high attenuations for years, from the cc to 85<sup>m</sup>, with the best of results; and I have no hesitancy in declaring my preference for the high potencies, but decline to enter into an arrangement to test already well-tested remedies."

DR. T. BACMEISTER, of Illinois, says, that "every single principle underlying this test is absolutely false, and the result . . . is of no import."

PROFESSOR SAMUEL A. JONES, of Michigan, writes: "I have no need of such a test. I have no time to spend in or on superfluous work," and with his usual elegance of diction, ascribes it to "the piddling pyrrhonism of beer-brewing Milwaukee."

DR. WILLIAM GALLUPE, of Maine, writes us thirteen pages of "silent contempt," as it rightfully deserves.

The journals have nearly all paid their respects to the Test, some by publishing the announcement, others by ridiculing the measure and its defenders, others again by misrepresenting both. The *St. Louis Clinical Review* and the *HAHNEMANNIAN MONTHLY*<sup>1</sup> have not only indorsed the proposition, but have opened their columns freely for its defence. The Anglo-American *Organon* at first approved the plan, but after its American colleagues sounded the alarm, it joined in abusive misrepresentation. The *Observer* dodged the question by being "out of town," when the pamphlet announcing it arrived. The *Homeopath* refused to publish the proposition because it had already appeared in print, and has editorially misrepresented it, and opened its columns to the most virulent attacks upon the Test and its defenders.

Much hard work has been done by your committee and the Secretary, Dr. Schloëmilch, in writing to physicians, answering inquiries, and defending the Test in the journals. In this they have been aided materially by Dr. Storke, of this Society, and by Dr. Paine, of Albany, New York.

This report would be incomplete if it did not notice certain counter-propositions made to this Academy or to members thereof by gentlemen who do not like the plan adopted. Of these, that of Professor T. F. Allen is the most important, by reason of the prominence of its author, and of the place in which it was announced. Before the American Institute, at its last session, Professor Allen spoke bravely for the high potencies, and indorsed the principle of the Milwaukee Test, but preferred a different arrangement, which was, that Boericke & Tafel

furnish him with one remedy in the 30th potency, selected from a list of six (or ten) remedies which he should name, and he would designate it at the next session of the Institute.

Another plan is by an English chemist, a Mr. Alfred Heath, in the columns of the Anglo-American *Organon*, and is to the effect that this Society should send him three or four thirtieths of certain drugs designated by him, and at the same time deposit with a well-known partisan of the high potencies a sealed description of the same, Mr. Heath thereupon to ascertain by experiment which remedy is contained in each vial. He does not say what he proposes to experiment upon, the sick, or the healthy, or the sealed description in his friend's hands.

A third plan is proposed by [Dr.] M. A. Bronson in the May *Homeopath*. He wants us to order Boericke & Tafel to send him two unmarked vials, one filled with pure alcohol, the other with the 30th of Merc. Sol., and he will, by therapeutic use, ascertain which is the remedy. He forgets that, if his credit is good, Messrs. Boericke & Tafel will send him the vials without our order, and he can experiment therewith to his heart's content. His plan is exactly the same as the therapeutic portion of the Milwaukee Test, divested of any safeguard against error, or self-deception, or leakage of the identity of the material.

A fourth proposition was made by Dr. George H. Carr, of Michigan, in a letter to your Secretary. He says he won't "putter round" with 30ths, but give him genuine high potencies (100,000ths to 50<sup>mm</sup>), and he will be happy to accommodate us. Dr. Schloemilch wrote, asking him to send on his 100,000th of any drug he had most confidence in, and that we would return it with a similar vial of blanks. No response has since been received, although several months have elapsed.

Another proposition is that of Professor W. J. Hawkes, of Chicago, made at the last meeting of our State society, and since repeated in the *Homeopath*. He will undertake to pick out the 30th as often as we can pick out the 3d (he afterwards raised this to the 6th), and will bet \$100 thereon.

Various other plans have been proposed in general terms. None have been strictly defined, except the foregoing, which are in no wise improvements on our method, as they diminish rather than increase the safeguards surrounding the experiment. Your committee would suggest that so far as this society is concerned the consideration of these proposals be postponed until after the conclusion of the Milwaukee Test. To take up every challenge, to adopt every plan or suggestion received

from persons who dislike the plan which we have adopted, would be to cause confusion, and a lack of uniformity, which could not help the final result, but would tend to weaken its positive character. *One plan at a time* should be our motto, and when we have done with this test we can feel at liberty to enter upon others. An exception, however, might be made in the case of Professor Allen, who, from his position as editor of the great *Encyclopedia of Homeopathic Materia Medica*, is entitled to every consideration which will aid him in co-operating with us. Your committee, therefore, recommend that your Secretary be requested to communicate with Professor Allen, asking him to state his objections to the method of the Milwaukee Test, if he has any, and to define his proposition in writing, carefully surrounding it with strictly scientific safeguards. When thus stated it will be in better shape for your consideration than in its present form of an oral proposition.

SAMUEL POTTER, M.D.,  
LEWIS SHERMAN, M.D.,  
E. M. ROSENKRANS, M.D.,

MILWAUKEE, September 2d, 1879.

Committee.



